

August 5, 2008

Cheryl Ouimet
Director of Policy Operations
Dorothea Dix Hospital
820 South Boylan Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

HCO ID: #3083

Dear Ms. Ouimet:

This letter is in reference to the material provided as follow-up to recent telephone conversations with staff from Dorothea Dix Hospital and John Umstead Hospital (Joint Commission ID #1606) in Butner, NC regarding the consolidation of services for these two facilities into one new facility, Central Regional Hospital. The new Central Regional Hospital will operate under the CMS Certification number that is currently in place for Dorothea Dix Hospital.

Based on the material supplied to The Joint Commission, which included a description of the changes to policies and procedures, changes to the Medical Staff bylaws and credentialing processes, and details regarding the training of staff on all changes associated with the consolidation and relocation of services, it is evident that the appropriate structure is in place to allow for a successful transition.

The evaluation to determine whether the transition is successful will occur in the form of an initial, unannounced accreditation survey for the newly created entity, Central Regional Hospital. The Joint Commission understands that the transition plan calls for the operation at John Umstead Hospital to relocate to Central Regional Hospital, with the operation at Dorothea Dix Hospital to relocate to Central Regional Hospital soon after. Please contact our office as each step of the transition is complete to ensure that our unannounced survey is scheduled appropriately.

The Joint Commission will evaluate the written policies, the implementation of those policies as evidenced by the provision of care, staff education and competency, and the health and safety of the facility in the context of the full operation of the hospital in an unannounced visit once both existing facilities have completed the transition to Central Regional Hospital. It is not reasonable to review the facility before the transition is complete as much of the on-site evaluation relies on all aspects of the two hospitals functioning together as one.

If I can be of further assistance I can be reached at (630) 792-5836.

Sincerely,

Stephen Misenko

Steve Misenko
Associate Director, Accreditation and Certification Operations

cc: Heidi Hanasik, Senior Account Representative
Correspondence File